

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/735,680

Examiner

Richard Franklin

Applicant(s)

NAKANO ET AL.

Art Unit

2181

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 14 August 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,5 and 7-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 4 – 5, and 7 – 10 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4 – 5, and 7 – 10 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 4, and 10 are allowed because the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest alone or in combination ***an external device that is external to, connectable to, and removable from the semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus, the external device storing an executable program and having a predetermined non-volatile storage region***, as required by independent claim 1, ***in combination with the other recited claim limitations*** (emphasis added). Support for this limitation can be found in the originally filed specification in Figure 3 and on Pages 14 – 16. The previously relied upon reference, US Patent No. 5,794,066 (hereinafter Dreyer), teaches acquiring a semiconductor ID by supplying the semiconductor with a program. Dreyer also teaches that the ID is written to a memory external from the semiconductor. However, the type of system and memory used in Dreyer does not suggest the program and external memory are within the same device. Also, Dreyer does not suggest that the external memory is removable or non-volatile.

Claim 5 is allowed because the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest alone or in combination ***an external device that is external to, connectable to, and***

removable from the semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus, the external device storing an executable program and having a predetermined non-volatile storage region, as required by independent claim 5, ***in combination with the other recited claim limitations*** (emphasis added). Support for this limitation can be found in the originally filed specification in Figure 3 and on Pages 14 – 16. The previously relied upon reference, US Patent No. 5,794,066 (hereinafter Dreyer), teaches acquiring a semiconductor ID by supplying the semiconductor with a program. Dreyer also teaches that the ID is written to a memory external from the semiconductor. However, the type of system and memory used in Dreyer does not suggest the program and external memory are within the same device. Also, Dreyer does not suggest that the external memory is removable or non-volatile.

Claims 7 and 9 are allowed because the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest alone or in combination ***an external device that is external to, connectable to, and removable from the semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus, the external device storing an executable program and having a predetermined non-volatile storage region***, as required by independent claim 7, ***in combination with the other recited claim limitations*** (emphasis added). Support for this limitation can be found in the originally filed specification in Figure 3 and on Pages 14 – 16. The previously relied upon reference, US Patent No. 5,794,066 (hereinafter Dreyer), teaches acquiring a semiconductor ID by supplying the semiconductor with a program. Dreyer also teaches that the ID is written to a memory external from the semiconductor.

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However, the type of system and memory used in Dreyer does not suggest the program and external memory are within the same device. Also, Dreyer does not suggest that the external memory is removable or non-volatile.

Claim 8 is allowed because the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest alone or in combination ***an external device that is external to, connectable to, and removable from the semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus, the external device storing an executable program and having a predetermined non-volatile storage region***, as required by independent claim 8, ***in combination with the other recited claim limitations*** (emphasis added). Support for this limitation can be found in the originally filed specification in Figure 3 and on Pages 14 – 16. The previously relied upon reference, US Patent No. 5,794,066 (hereinafter Dreyer), teaches acquiring a semiconductor ID by supplying the semiconductor with a program. Dreyer also teaches that the ID is written to a memory external from the semiconductor. However, the type of system and memory used in Dreyer does not suggest the program and external memory are within the same device. Also, Dreyer does not suggest that the external memory is removable or non-volatile.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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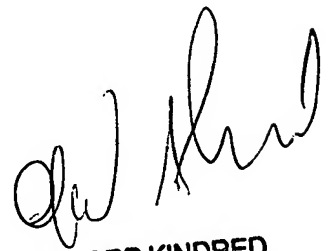
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Franklin whose telephone number is (571) 272-0669. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alford Kindred can be reached on (571) 272-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Richard Franklin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2181



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